

**UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

June 06, 2008

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Board Members:

Geoffrey Bedell, Chair
Stephen Church
Kenneth Puchlik
Alisa Schofield

Jack Hamilton, Vice Chair
David Simon
Mark Bunnell
Tom Faddies, Ex Officio

Staff:

Rick Allis, Director
John Kingsley, Associate Director
Lucy Jordan, Ground Water Program
Mike Stark, Associated Press Reporter

Kimm Harty, Deputy Director
Dianne Davis, Board Secretary
Matt Affolter, Ground Water Program

Chair Bedell welcomed all to the meeting of June 6, 2008. The meeting began at 8:30 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Bedell asked for a motion to approve the last meeting's minutes. There was some confusion as to a name in the personnel portion of the minutes. "David" should be "Scott" when referring to Scott Madsen. Mark Bunnell motioned to approve minutes as written with the change, and Jack Hamilton made a second. All were in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Situation

After adjustment for several one-off factors, UGS expenditure appears to be about 2% below budget expenditure for the end of April (83% of fiscal year [FY]). Contractor/pass through expenses are significantly below budget, but these catch-up towards the year-end when contract deadlines approach. The \$300k expense for the Utah Core Research Center modifications will now occur next FY. As reported at the last meeting, revenue from traditional sources is normal, but one-time revenue from the Exchanged Lands account for West Desert drilling will be carried forward to next FY. The April Mineral lease payment was as predicted, and confirms that we are coming out of the slump in monthly lease payments caused by lower natural gas prices last fall and early winter. Although there is still significant uncertainty in year-end revenues, we project that the year-end carry-forward due to traditional funding sources could be similar to last year, at

about \$700k. The Exchanged Lands Funds earmarked for the West Desert drilling will be on top of this figure.

Contracts

We are waiting for a decision on a large proposal submitted to DOE on environmental assistance to Utah's oil, gas, and oil shale industries (Mike Vandenberg, PI, ~ \$800k over three years, + 20% cost share). Contractual details of phase III of the Southwest Partnership for Carbon Sequestration (CO₂ injection at Farnham Dome, central Utah) are still being sorted out with DOE (PI, Brian McPherson, University of Utah), so the schedule for this project has slipped almost a year (UGS component is around \$400k/year).

Since the packet went out, a new contract to do a digital map of the Elk Ridge area has come in. It will be \$12,000 to digitize this.

We also had a contract come through yesterday for \$10,000 for a data preservation project – documenting new core – in the Core Facility.

Personnel

Since the April meeting, the State Energy program has appointed Elise Brown to fill the renewable energy position vacated by Jason Berry being promoted to SEP Manager. Interviews for the Geologist and Project Geologist positions funded by the FY09 ongoing building block of state funds starting are in progress. Appointments may have been made by the time of this Board meeting. The UGS is hiring 8 interns as temporary help for the summer months.

Ashley Elliott is the new geologist for the hazards group. We are still advertising for the two project geologist positions.

Legislative News

No news since April Board meeting. As a result of a query from the Utah Tax Commission, we are offering a short course on "Utah Oil and Gas – 101" (see flyer below). The Tax Commission is sending seven people, and the Governor's Office is also sending 7 – 10 people. We may also get interest from legislators. The course is timely with energy resources and supplies being constantly in the news.

Geologic Hazard Reviews for Municipalities - Update

As a follow-up to the Board policy passed last meeting, the UGS sent a letter to all County planning departments, and all cities that the Geologic Hazards Program had interacted with over the last few years, explaining the new UGS policy. A copy of that letter is included with the Board packet. Informal discussion with several counties

Flyer for Oil and Gas Workshop

May 19, 2008

Agenda: Petroleum Geology Core Workshop and Tour
 Utah Tax Commission and Legislature

When: Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Where: Utah Core Research Center, 240 North Redwood Rd., Salt
 Lake City, Utah

As requested, the Utah Geological Survey's Core Research Center has put together the following core workshop and tour for the Utah Tax Commission and Legislature. The entire tour and workshop should take about 2.5 hours. Snacks, drinks, handouts and rock and oil samples will be provided.

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| 9:00 - 9:10 AM | Welcome and Introductions - Michael Laine |
| 9:10 - 10:10 AM | Petroleum Geology of Utah– Tom Chidsey <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Basics of Utah's Petroleum Geology- Characteristics of Utah Crude Oil- Review of Hot Oil and Gas Activity in Utah |
| 10:10 -11:10AM | Mini-Core Workshop – Tom Chidsey and Michael Laine <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examples of Utah oil and gas reservoir rocks from the Uinta Basin and Wolverine Gas and Oil Corporation's Central Utah Covenant Field Discovery- Utah's crude oils- Future Resources - oil shale and tar sand deposits. |
| 11:10 – 11:30AM | Tour of Utah Core Research Center and State Paleontology Laboratory – Michael Laine and Don Deblieux |

April 29, 2008

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In response to the new legislation of House Bill 177 (HB177) that becomes effective on July 1, 2008, the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) is providing clarification on the role of the UGS within the activities specified in the legislation.

In general, House Bill 177 defines geologic hazards, authorizes local governments to enact ordinances regulating land use in a flood plain or geologic hazard area, and provides a process for assembling a panel of experts to decide the technical aspects of an appeal of a land use decision.

The bill defines a geologic hazard as a surface fault rupture, shallow groundwater, liquefaction, landslide, debris flow, unstable soil, rock fall, or any other geologic condition that presents a risk to life or substantial loss or damage of real property. Potential geologic hazard areas are those areas delineated on a UGS map, county geologist map, other relevant geologic hazard maps, or areas that have not been studied by the UGS or a county geologist that have characteristics similar to a designated geologic hazard area.

Upon an appeal of a land use decision based on a local government's geologic hazard ordinance, the applicant may request the local government to assemble a technical panel of three qualified experts to serve as the appeal authority. The technical panel will comprise one member selected by the local government, one member selected by the applicant, and one member chosen jointly by the two selected members. However, a member of the panel may not have been previously associated with the application that is subject to appeal. The applicant shall pay one-half the cost of the panel and the local government's published appeal fee.

The Utah Geological Survey Board has enacted a new policy relating to technical reviews of consultant geologic hazard reports for local governments. In the past, the UGS has provided no-cost technical reviews of consultant geologic hazard reports for local governments. However, with the new legislation of HB177 preventing appeal panel members from being previously associated with the land use decision (including the development project), a new policy regarding staff participation is necessary.

It is the opinion of the UGS and its Board, that rather than reviewing technical reports, the role of the UGS should be to provide staff to serve on appeal panels as technical experts at no cost to local governments, as staff availability will permit.

As a result, the UGS will no longer perform reviews of consultant geologic hazard reports for local governments after July 1, 2008, except for special circumstances. These special circumstances include reviews of follow-up reports that address previous UGS review comments, performing first-time reviews for small local governments that cannot pay for outside reviews with the understanding that reviews will only be performed for a short time until the local government adopts policies to fund outside reviews, when no qualified private-sector reviewer is available, and other special circumstances as needs arise. The UGS will continue to

review reports for critical public facilities (schools, water tanks, etc.) upon request by State agencies and local governments.

The UGS, through a new initiative in geologic hazards mapping, will be producing new or updated geologic hazards maps for the urban areas of the state. Western Salt Lake Valley will be mapped during 2008 and 2009, with other urban areas scheduled for 2009 and beyond. The maps will generally be compiled at a scale of 1:24,000 and we hope they will assist local governments in their land-use decisions. We will be in touch with your planning department as we update hazard information with your jurisdiction. Once the maps are published, they will be available on our website.

The UGS hopes that the new policy of assisting hazard review panels set under HB177 will provide a more consistent service to local governments than has been the case in the past. Should you have any questions related to the new UGS policy regarding consultant geologic hazard report reviews, please contact me or Mr. Steve Bowman, Geologic Hazards Program Manager, (801) 537-3304, stevebowman@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

Rick Allis
State Geologist

RCA/sdb

cc:

CRAWFORD AWARD

The UGS Board Members voted on which of the three nominations they thought should win the 2008 Crawford Award. The voting was unanimous. The award goes to:

The UGS Geologic Hazards Program team of Frank Ashland, Greg McDonald, Ashley Elliot, Rich Giraud, Lucas Shaw, and Gary Christenson for their combined work on landslides and landslide hazards throughout Utah over the past two years. Led by Frank, this group has been remarkably productive: (1) they published several landslide reports for both technical and general audiences; (2) they used innovative methods for creating a landslide susceptibility map of Utah; (3) they maintain an informative and up-to-date web page on landslide hazards in Utah; and (4) led by Gary, they helped the Governor's Geologic Hazards Working Group create recommendations to address a variety of geologic hazards in Utah.

Collectively, this team is at the forefront of landslide investigations and is deserving of praise for their efforts to disseminate information to consultants, local officials, and homeowners in Utah.

Selected publications for which this team is nominated:

Map 228 - Landslide Susceptibility Map of Utah, by Rich and Lucas
Report of Investigation 260 - Mountain Green Landslide, by Frank
Open-file Report 518 - Grandview Peak, by Frank and Greg
Open-file Report 519 - Draper Heights landslide, by Frank
Open-file Report 520 - Little Valley landslide, by Frank
Public Information Series 88 - Heather Drive landslide, by Ashley
Public Information Series 89 - Sage Vista landslide, by Ashley
Public Information Series 91 - Creekside Drive landslide, by Ashley
January 2007 Survey Notes - 2006 landslide summary, by Rich and Frank

The board also voted to award the \$1,500 monetary award as follows:

Francis Ashland	\$450.00
Greg McDonald	\$450.00
Ashley Elliott	\$200.00
Rich Giraud	\$200.00
Lucas Shaw	\$200.00

Gary Christenson, who has retired, will receive a certificate.

Dave Simon made a motion that the above be approved. Ken Puclick made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The need for an August board meeting was discussed. At this time, it doesn't look like there will be a need for this meeting. A motion was made by Alisa Schofield that we cancel the meeting unless something comes up that needs board attention. Mark Bunnell made the second. The motion carried.

The meeting portion was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The board and staff members then went on a field trip to the Bingham Copper Mine.